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MONTHLY PLANS AND PROGRESS REPORT

Title: Plan for the Uniform Mapping of Earth Resources and
Environmental Complexes from Skylab Imagery

Period
Covered: 2 January 1973 to 28 February 1973

Contract: NAS 9-13286
EREP Investigation #510

EarthSat
Project: G-089

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Permission (Phase I)

The initial efforts for selecting field test sites have been completed and these selections closely approximate the test sites being used for the ERTS-1 investigation for both the crop and natural vegetation analogues.

Project personnel are in a state of readiness as regards Contract Section 2.1.1.1, data analysis. The legend system (Contract Section 2.1.1.2) for mapping of major, or broadly generalized, ecosystems has been developed through the tertiary classification level. It has been tested and is functional through the secondary level with no problems and most of the tertiary classes are working well for all but the Savanna-like and Forest and Woodland Types. In these latter instances we still have a few legend problems that are being worked out. In both these areas we anticipate that we will have less problem with EREP data than we have been experiencing with the ERTS-1 data because of the higher resolution expected from the EREP camera systems.

E73-10532) PLAN FOR THE UNIFORM MAPPING
OF EARTH RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLEXES FROM SKYLAB IMAGERY Monthly
Progress Report, (Earth Satellite Corp.,
Berkeley, Calif.) 3 p HC \$3.00 CSCL 08B

N73-23417

Unclas
G3/13 00532

Cooperating experiment station personnel and extension service agronomists have been contacted and alerted to our data needs in connection with the crop analogue study. Tentative arrangements have been made with local scientists or resource managers in our Colorado Plateau Test Site for supporting collaboration. This will be firmed up early in the next reporting period.

Data-collecting flights in the company operated aircraft and field activities have been planned and tentatively scheduled based on the projected launch date of Skylab.

All test sites have been visited. Considerable ground truth in terms of identification of locations and extent of specific ecological analogues has been acquired for potential EREP test sites in connection with our ERTS-1 investigation. An initial EREP visit to the Louisiana rice growing area has been arranged for the next reporting period to acquire necessary field data prior to and during crop planting, and to select cooperating growers.

Tentative arrangements for cooperation from the rice experimentation station personnel in California have been completed. Plans for weather monitoring during the EREP data overpasses have been made and will be finalized once the launch date becomes known.

Contact has been made with the RB-57 flight coordinator at NASA/Houston and underflight data needs are being worked out with Mr. Bill Reeves. This work is being integrated with ERTS-1 requirements to maximize effectiveness in total use of aircraft support for the combined programs.

PLANS FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

Ground data collection for the natural vegetation analogues will not begin until test areas are imaged by SKYLAB and actual overpass locations are known. The primary ground data initially taken will be on plant development in the various vegetational analogues.

During the month of March we will begin to collect data in the field for the Louisiana rice study. Field preparation and rice crop planting will begin early in March in Louisiana and in mid April in California.

A flight is planned to Louisiana in the middle of the next reporting period during the field preparation stages to support aerial photos of the test fields.

Final selection of cooperating rice farmers in Louisiana will be made during that visit. Data on the planting date, variety planted and method of planting rice will be collected when available from the growers.

Briefings on the project activities and the data desired from the growers will be given to the cooperators at the earliest opportunity.

Early in the next reporting period arrangements will be made for local collaborative support as required for mission management and data acquisition by SKYLAB.

PROBLEMS

None.

PERSONNEL

No change.